(a) Farmers in distress-Debts of farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in districts declared as calamity affected by the State Government concerned will be rescheduled/restructured which shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.

(b) Farmers in arrears—Loans in default of famers who have become ineligible for fresh credit, as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful will be rescheduled so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

(c) OTS for small and marginal farmers — The small and marginal farmers who have been declared defaulters and have become ineligible for availing institutional credit may be given relief including partial waiver of interest on loans under "One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme".

(d) Banks have been permitted to advance loans against appropriate collateral or group security to the farmers who are under heavy debt burden from non-institutional lenders so as to provide them relief from indebtedness.

Per capita Wheat and Rice availability

†1781. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any downfall in the per-capita availiability of wheat and rice in the country since beginning of 90's till date;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that agricultural production has been decreasing as compared to population growth in the above years in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and whether in the above situation, promoting production of cash crops and contract farming could be a solution of overcoming starvation-related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The per-capita availibility of wheat

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and rice has been fluctuating since the 90's. While there has been a rising trend in the per-capita availibility of wheat, no definite trend in discermible in case of rice. Per- capita availibility of wheat, in 2002-03, is placed at 65.3 kgs. per-capita per-year as against 60.0 kgs. per-capita per-year in 1990-91. However, per-capita availability of rice, in 2002-03, is placed at 66.9 kgs. per-capita per-year as against 80.9 kgs. per-capita per-year in 1990-91. The decline in per-capita availability of rice in 2002-03 reflects the impact of drought that adversely affected several States in the country during 2002. The per-capita availability of rice in 2001-02 was 83.5 kgs. A statement showing the per-capita availability of rice and wheat from 1990-91 onwards is annexed *(See* below).

(c) and (d) Between 1990-91 and 2000-01 the growth in foodgrain production exceeded the population growth in seven years.

In order to encourage the farmers to raise production and productivity of major agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, the Government fixes Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) every year. Besides with a view to raising overall production of agricultural commodities, including foodgrains, the Government have identified the following areas for focused and priority attention.

* Doubling Rural Credit in three years, easing the burden of debt and high interest rate;
* Dry Land Farming, promotion of Horticulture production and Water Management;
* Creation of additional irrigation facilities;
* Marketing support to farmer's produce for ensuring fair and remumerative prices;
* Assistance to the farmers under various agricultural and horticultural production programmes;
* Insurance of crops against production loss due to natural calamities.

States have been advised to promote contract farming arrangement as an effective method of linking small farmer sector to sources of extension, with due protection to farmers' rights over their land.

The efforts of Government in raising agricultural growth are aimed at promoting production and productivity across regions and crops encompassing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture and other crops grown by farmers in different parts of the country.

In order to increase production and productivity of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals (maize) Government is implementing an Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in selected States.

Statement

Per-capita availability of rice and wheat from 1990-91 onwards

(Kgs. per-captia per year)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1991	80.9	60.0
1992	79.2	57.9
1993	73.4	51.2
1994	75.7	58.2
1995	80.3	63.0
1996	74.6	64.3
1997	78.1	65.4
1998	73.1	55.3
1999	74.2	59.2
2000	74.3	58.4
2001	69.5	49.6
2002	83.5	60.8
2003	66.9	65.3

NOTE: The year relates to agricultural year (July to June). Thus, 1991 refers to 1990-91; 1992 refers to 1991-92 and so on.